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Building Facility and Tempo in Scales	

I. Five-Finger Positions

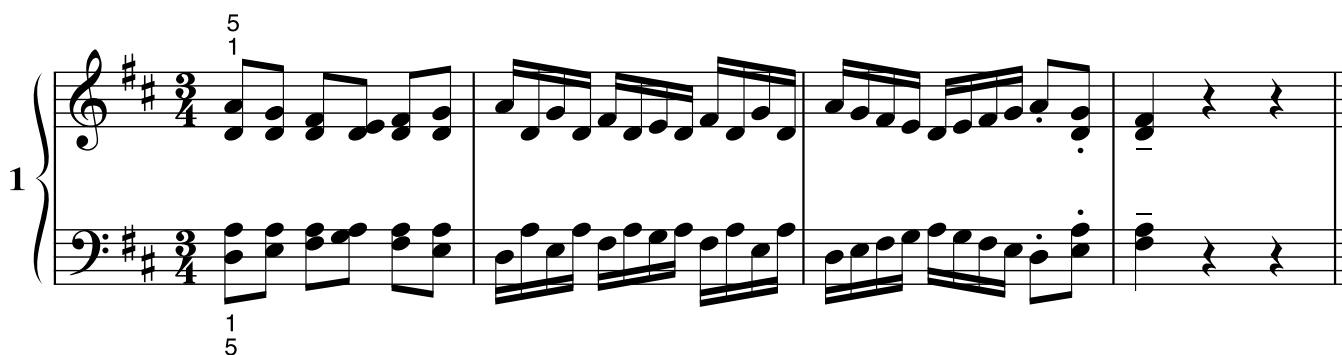
A. Facility Using Rotation

1. Building the Outside of the Hand (Fingers 5, 4, 3, 2)

Play pattern 1:

RH alone in 3 different octaves
LH alone in 3 different octaves
HT

As you play pattern 1, emphasize the tones played by fingers 5, 4, 3, 2, letting the weight of your arm drop into each finger as it plays.
Play your thumb with a gentle, weightless feeling.

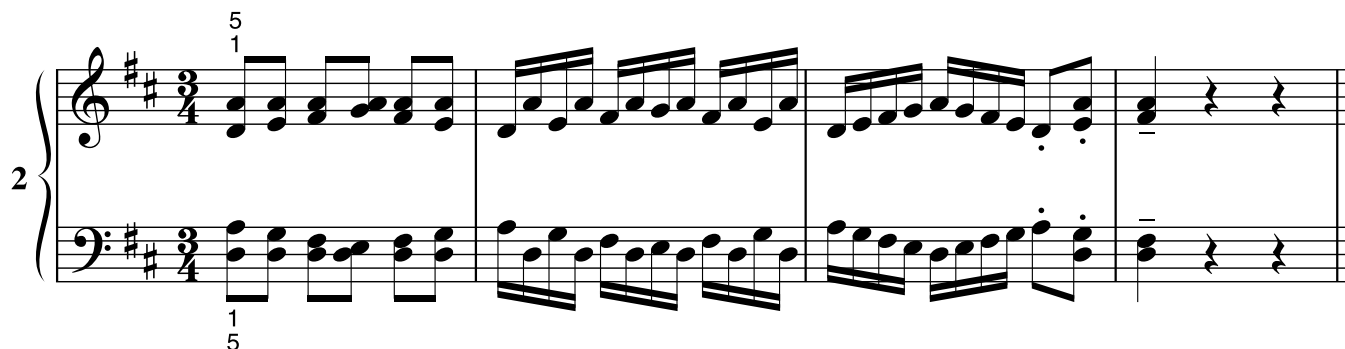


2. Building the Inside of the Hand (Fingers 1, 2, 3, 4)

Play pattern 2:

RH alone in 3 different octaves
LH alone in 3 different octaves
HT

As you play pattern 2, emphasize the tones played by fingers 1, 2, 3, 4, letting the weight of your arm drop into each finger as it plays.
Play your 5th finger with a gentle, weightless feeling.



Change patterns 1 and 2 to *minor* and play again.
Then transpose them to a different pair of keys each day.
Circle each pair as you complete it.

G MAJOR	F MAJOR	E MAJOR
G MINOR	F MINOR	E MINOR

4. Scales

The A Major Scale

A. Preparing to Play the Scale

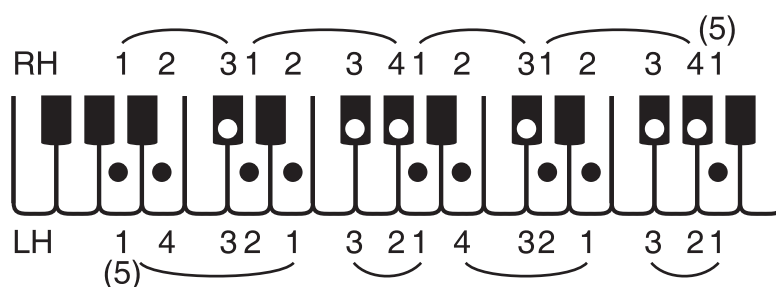
1. Fingering Pattern

Study this keyboard picture of the A major scale.

Practice the fingering pattern by playing the clusters of 3 keys and 4 keys—first silently and then with sound.

RH alone until secure

LH alone until secure



2. How the Thumb Works

Scales are made of 5-finger positions connected by contractions.

In playing scales, the thumb makes it possible to connect the groups of 3 keys and 4 keys smoothly.

It can slide under the other fingers as they play, or it can roll, causing the other fingers to cross over it:



No other finger can do this, so it is really the thumb that makes it possible to play scales smoothly!

To play scales, you need to know:

- the fingering pattern securely
- how to use the thumb to connect the groups of notes smoothly